

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a camshaft adjusting device, using an actuating drive, the method comprising:  
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;  
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication,  
wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold condition.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9,  
wherein information of a driver concerning an occurrence of a fault takes place as a function of a stage of the fault indication.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9,  
wherein a stage of greater weighting is reached with increasing system deviation.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising  
generating a fault indication perceptible by a driver at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising  
generating fault indications, perceptible by a driver, that are different from each other, as a function of a stage of the weighting, a fault indication, that prompts an immediate searching out of a repair shop, being generated at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9,  
wherein at least one stage exists in which a fault indication is generated that is stored  
in a fault memory in a way in which it can be read out, but is not perceptible to a  
driver during driving operation.
15. (Currently Amended) A control unit for operating a camshaft adjusting device of a  
vehicle, the control unit including a computer to which a memory device is assigned,  
the memory device storing a program that is able to be executed by the computer, for  
carrying out the following method:  
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to  
follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in the control unit;  
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting,  
forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and  
imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication,  
wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold  
condition.
16. (Currently Amended) A memory device storing a program that is able to be executed  
by a processor for carrying out the following method for operating a camshaft  
adjusting device:  
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to  
follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;  
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting,  
forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and  
imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication,  
wherein the fault signal is generated if the system deviation satisfies a threshold  
condition.